

Documents

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Seeding the innovator pipeline, feeding the world

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Abstract

Humanitarian Engineering and Social Entrepreneurship (HESE) program at The Pennsylvania State University, engages students and faculty in the rigorous research, design, field-testing, and launch of technology-based social enterprises. HESE ventures range from low-cost greenhouses and solar food dryers to telemedicine systems and low-cost biomedical devices. HESE ventures encompass two overlapping sectors: food value chains (FVCs) and global health. A flagship HESE venture related to FVCs involves affordable greenhouses (AGs). There are five critical aspects of HESE's educational and entrepreneurial ecosystem that distinguish it from other community-engaged programs. These include highly multidisciplinary student and faculty teams, emphasis on sustainable and scalable solutions, a market-centric implementation approach, integration of scholarly research and publication, and focus on integration.

Index Keywords

Greenhouses; Biomedical devices, Humanitarian engineering, Implementation approach, Pennsylvania State University, Rigorous research, Scholarly research, Social entrepreneurship, Telemedicine systems; Software testing

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